



Louisiana TRANSITIONS

June 2006

FTA's Safety & Security Initiative

The safety and security of public transit systems has always been of paramount importance to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), to State Departments of Transportation, and to public transportation providers across the nation. After the events of September 11, 2001, security issues and preparing the transit industry to counter terrorist threats became a major focal point for the FTA.

Transit, by its open and accessible nature, is a highly likely target for terrorism. According to the FTA, "every workday, transit moves more than 14 million passengers. In two weeks, transit moves more passengers than AMTRAK moves in a year. In one month, transit moves more passengers than U.S. airlines move in a year."

FTA's goal has always been to "achieve the highest practical level of safety and security for all modes of transit." However, the events of 9/11 kicked the issue to the forefront of the national consciousness. FTA has developed a 5-point security initiative, which focuses on threat and vulnerability assessments; technical assistance teams; grants for drills for emergency responders and transit systems; accelerated technology deployment; training; and regional collaboration.

... "every workday, transit moves more than 14 million passengers. In two weeks, transit moves more passengers than AMTRAK moves in a year. In one month, transit moves more passengers than U.S. airlines move in a year."

FTA's 5-point security initiative was developed as a result of the intense learning process that occurred in the wake of 9/11. FTA studied the numerous transit related terrorist attacks that have occurred in the past decade. According to the US-DOT Office of Intelligence and Security, transit was the target of 20-35% of terrorist attacks worldwide during the 1990's. FTA formed working relationships with the intelligence community. All of that experience and knowledge was used to implement the 5-point security initiative.

The national safety and security push has yielded many useful programs and products. There have been numerous new publications on best practices and guidelines for developing a secure transit system. FTA has held workshops and forums across the nation on emergency preparedness and security to promote regional cooperation. New programs and funding are available such as the 'TransitWatch' program and the grants for emergency preparedness drills.

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**Public Transportation
Staff**

225-274-4302

**225-274-4314 fax
publictransportation@
dotd.louisiana.gov
www.dotd.louisiana.gov**

**Carol Cranshaw
Administrator**

**Donna Lavigne
Assistant Administrator**

**Harold Beck
Elderly & Disabled Program
Manager**

**Emily Callender-Efferson
Urban Program Manager/
Planner**

**Michelle Horne
Rural Public Transit Program
Manager**

**Wanda Walker
Training & Technical
Assistance Program Manager**

**Daria West
Discretionary Program
Manager**

**Michael P. Watts
Accountant**

**Vicki Brown
Elderly & Disabled Program
Assistant Manager**

**Sheila Robinson
Rural Public Transit Program
Assistant Manager**

**Kay Ryall
Safety & Other Programs
Assistant Manager**



Notes from the Top
by Carol Cranshaw

We recently began the process of closing out projects for the state's fiscal year ending on June 30, 2006. During this yearly ordeal, I began to reflect on our accomplishments and progress on the goals and objectives that we had formulated the previous year. These goals were in place well before August 29, 2005, the day we dreaded might, but hoped would never come. That event will forever be imprinted on my mind as the day our world turned upside down, and new priorities were established for us. My electricity went out at 5:00 a.m. on that day and when the winds died down we surveyed the damage; what a shock! It was a few days before we discovered how devastating Hurricane Katrina had been to the coastal parishes; we stopped feeling sorry for ourselves. We were without electricity for a week, had innumerable trees uprooted or sheared in half, fences and other personal property destroyed, and our local road was impassable for over a week. Then Hurricane Rita hit and nearly wiped out Cameron Parish and dealt a severe blow to Calcasieu and several other parishes. Then a freak storm a few months later caused tree limbs to fall through my house and carport roofs. That was almost 10 months and several thousand heart-aches ago, and the blue tarp is still there. However, with all things considered, my family was blessed - at least our damage was minor compared to the utter destruction that others have experienced.

As I said, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita redefined our mission. Shortly after the storms, the Public Transportation Section became immersed in activities related to recovery from the 2005 hurri-

cane season. Those activities continue along with preparations for the 2006 season, which is at hand. Highlights of these activities are below:

- ❖ We forged much stronger relationships with our large transit systems to assist them with various emergency funding and recovery plans.
- ❖ With FEMA funding, we started a new intercity bus service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, which transports almost 800 displaced persons a day.
- ❖ With \$19 million in funding from FEMA through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), we developed and implemented a Statewide Supplemental Emergency Public Transportation Plan to assist transit systems impacted by displaced persons.
- ❖ We then became involved in preparations for the 2006 hurricane season and participated in numerous state and local meetings. Donna and I took two FEMA-required courses and passed tests on Incident Command System and National Incident Management System. Because DOTD has an important role in evacuation planning, we also participated in the statewide mock drills.
- ❖ We hosted several workshops and finalized a date and place for the 2006 Annual Conference (more information provided later in this newsletter). The conference will be held at the Wyndham hotel in New Orleans on September 25-27, 2006. We are working on a wonderful agenda and welcome any suggested topics.

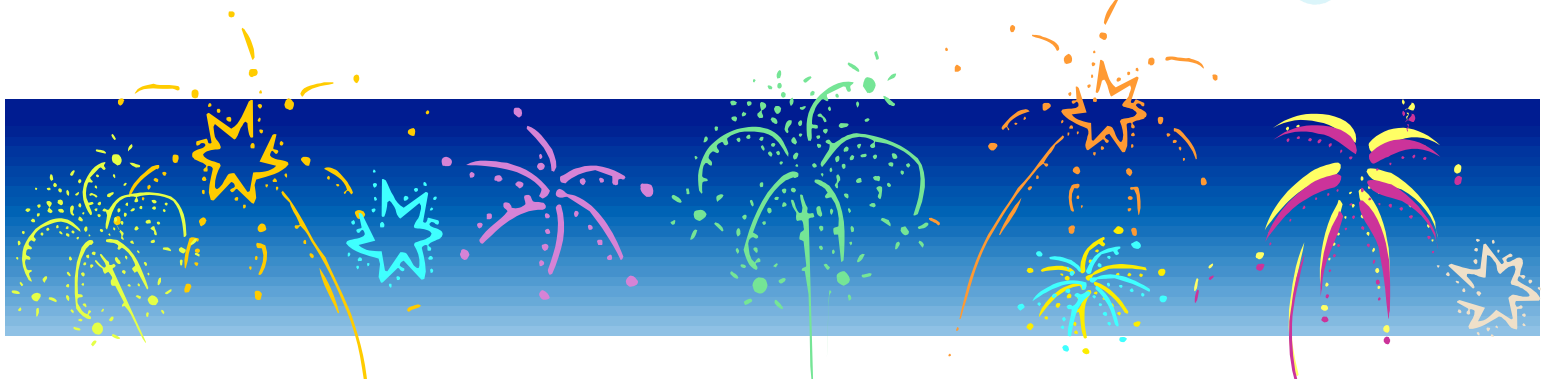


Announcements



**Have a
safe and fun**

4TH OF JULY!



Events Calendar

APTA Conferences

Sustainability and Public Transportation
July 22-25, 2006 Portland, OR

State Public Transit Partnership
Conference
July 26-28, 2006 Denver, CO

Intermodal Operation Planning
Workshop
July 31-August 2, 2006 Toronto, Ontario

Bus Rapid Transit Workshop
August 2-4, 2006 Toronto, Ontario

Annual Meeting
October 8-11, 2006 San Jose, CA

For more information: www.apta.com

Other Upcoming Conferences/Training:

SWTA Transit Law Seminar
August 6-8, 2006 Fort Worth, TX

TRB 17th National Rural Public and
Intercity Bus Transportation Conference
October 22-25, 2006 Stevenson, WA
For more information: www.trb.org

State Safety Oversight Fixed Guideway
Annual Conference
Sept. 17-21, 2006 Salt Lake City, UT

NTI Courses:

Rural ITS
August 10, 2006 Tampa, FL

QA and QC in Transit Projects
August 27-28, 2006 Chicago, IL

For information: www.ntionline.com

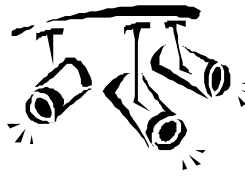
Louisiana 18th Annual Public Transit Conference - 2006

September 25-27, 2006 New Orleans, LA
Wyndham New Orleans @ Canal Place

For more information, see the
announcement at the end of this
newsletter or go to:
[http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov/
intermodal/transit/](http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov/intermodal/transit/)

Transportation Safety Institute Classes
Courses are offered around the country
on various topics throughout the year.
For more information,
please visit:
www.tsi.dot.gov





Spotlight on...



FTA Management Review: DOTD Passes with Flying Colors

Like most Louisianans, the DOTD Public Transportation staff (DOTD PT) has been continuously responding to the horrific events of the 2005 hurricane season and has been heavily involved in preparations for the 2006 season. These new full-time duties are in addition to our normal fare; oversight of the public transportation operations in Louisiana.


In addition to our normal duties, we have been tasked with many duties resulting from the 2005 hurricane season or in preparation of the 2006 season. Those duties include: coordination efforts regarding the LA SWIFT commuter service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans; managing the FEMA/FTA funds received to provide Emergency Transportation Services in response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; continuous flow of information to other state and federal officials regarding public transportation coordination efforts; evacuation coordination with other state and federal officials in preparation of the 2006 season.

In the midst of all this EXTRA duty, the DOTD PT recently underwent a triennial State Management Review. The Federal Transit Administration conducts a review of each state's primary recipient of Section 5309 (Capital Investments Grants Program), Section 5310 (Formula Grant Program for Special Needs of Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), and Section 5311 (Formula Grants Program for other than Urbanized Areas) funds. The review is performed to assess state management practices and program implementation

of the three grant programs (5307, 5310 and 5311).

The review focuses on compliance in 19 program areas and consists of three stages. The first stage is a desk review where documents on file in the FTA regional office are examined; this was conducted in December 2005. The second stage is also conducted remotely; DOTD was asked to provide additional state documents in advance of the site review along with answers to a series of some 152 information items. The final stage involved a site visit to DOTD and one randomly selected subrecipient... and the winner was St. Landry Parish Community Action Agency. During the site visits documents were requested and reviewed and questions were asked and answered.

The site review team conducted the site visit with the DOTD PT staff May 2-5, 2006. A copy of the Draft Report was provided to DOTD at the May 5th exit interview. Under "General Condition of the Grantee," the reviewers stated, "In the nineteen areas reviewed, no areas of deficiency were identified."

In addition to the hurricane related duties DOTD PT has undertaken, the section administers 33 Section 5311 subrecipients that operate a total of 63 federally funded vehicles; 89 Section 5310 subrecipients with 327 federally funded vehicles; and administers the Section 5303/5313 planning and rail safety activities. DOTD PT has also funded approximately 180 vehicles in nonurbanized areas through the Section 5309 program... and this is all done with only 12 staff members. 



One of the DOTD PT Section's mandates is to provide information and technical assistance to transit providers in Louisiana to assist them in meeting their requirements for FTA funding. These activities come in many different formats and venues. DOTD PT provides numerous training courses, workshops, and training material as well as a web site and annual conference. To keep all of our constituents up to date on DOTD PT's activities, DOTD On The Go features just a few selected items each quarter.



Rural providers to attend the Community Transportation Association of America Conference and Expo in June 2006.

Updates to DOTD PT Resource Library

Several new training items have been obtained to enhance DOTD PT's library of resource and training material. These were cataloged and a list was posted to our web site at www.dotd.louisiana.gov/intermodal/transit/ under the Training & Support tab. For additional information, contact Wanda Walker at (225) 274-4302.

Bus Safety & Security

As part of our on-going educational efforts, DOTD PT sponsored a series of workshops on Bus Safety & Security. The workshops were held in Monroe, Alexandria, and Baton Rouge. The input received was used to finalize templates for a Bus System Safety Program Plan, a Bus System Security Plan, and an Emergency Preparedness Plan. The updated templates were distributed to all transit providers in the state.

State Safety Oversight Standard

DOTD PT, with help from our consultant, developed a new *State Safety Oversight Standard*. This Interim Standard addresses safety and security issues for rail fixed guideway providers and potential providers in the state. The new Interim Standard was developed in response to FTA's *Rail Fixed Guideway Systems, State Safety Oversight, Final Rule* published in April 2005. FTA is currently reviewing the DOTD Interim Standard and will provide comments soon. Assistance was provided to the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority to update their Rail Fixed Guideway Plans.

Emergency Transportation Services

DOTD PT continues to engage in coordination efforts to provide public transportation services to the displaced persons throughout Louisiana. The staff has spent countless hours working with transit agencies across the state and state, local and federal officials to address the issues brought about by the 2005 hurricane season and prepare for the 2006 season.

FEMA Courses

To enhance their understanding of the Federal Emergency Management process, Carol Cranshaw and Donna Lavigne completed two FEMA courses in April. The two courses were the Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).


E&D Operating Assistance

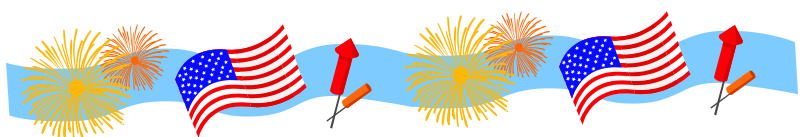
Louisiana was recently selected as one of only six states to participate in a pilot program for E&D operating assistance. Harold Beck, Program Manager for the E&D Program and the DOTD PT staff are currently working on an application that will be provided in time for the Annual Public Transit Conference, which will be held in New Orleans in September.

On-Going Training Efforts

As usual, DOTD PT was in the field conducting on-site training for transit providers. They were in Vernon and Lafourche in March and Natchitoches and Calcasieu in April. In addition to the field training, DOTD PT provided scholarships to 21 E&D and

DOTD/CATS/NORTA Receive CTAA Awards

At the June 2006 Community Transportation Association of America Conference and Expo held in Florida, the DOTD PT staff, the Capital Area Transit System, and the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority were honored. DOTD and CATS both received an award recognizing their outstanding efforts at providing transportation services in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. NORTA, along with the Coast Transit Authority in Gulfport, MS, received awards for Community Transportation Systems of the Year. 



Hurricane Preparedness

Since the 2006 Hurricane season is upon us, it is important to be prepared. Hurricane hazards come in many forms: storm surge, high winds, tornadoes, and flooding. It is important to know the terminology and be prepared for the various hazards associated with hurricanes.

The most important thing that any of us can do is be prepared. Each of us should be able to answer the following questions long before a hurricane threatens:

- ❖ What are the Hurricane Hazards?
- ❖ What does it mean to you?
- ❖ What actions should you take to be prepared?

HAVE A PLAN... It is critical that all preparations are completed before the emergency. Survival supplies should be in place well before they are needed. Each member of the family should know the plan in case you are separated.

Planning:

1. Discuss the type of hazards that could affect your family. Know your home's vulnerability to storm surge, flooding and wind.
2. Locate a safe room or the safest areas in your home for each hurricane hazard. In certain circumstances the safest areas may not be your home but within your community.
3. Determine escape routes from your home and places to meet. These should be measured in tens of miles rather than hundreds of miles.
4. Have an out-of-state friend as a family contact, so all your family members have a single point of contact.
5. Make a plan now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
6. Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones and make sure your children know how and when to call 911.
7. Check your insurance coverage - flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.
8. Stock non-perishable emergency supplies and a Disaster Supply Kit.

9. Use a NOAA weather radio. Remember to replace its battery every 6 months, as you do with your smoke detectors.
10. Take First Aid, CPR and disaster preparedness classes.

Disaster Supply Kit:

- ✓ Water - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days
- ✓ Food - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
 - ✓ non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
 - ✓ foods for infants or the elderly
 - ✓ snack foods
 - ✓ non-electric can opener
 - ✓ cooking tools / fuel
 - ✓ paper plates / plastic utensils
- ✓ Blankets / Pillows, etc.
- ✓ Clothing - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes
- ✓ First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs
- ✓ Special Items - for babies and the elderly
- ✓ Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes
- ✓ Flashlight / Batteries
- ✓ Radio - Battery operated and NOAA weather radio
- ✓ Telephones - Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set
- ✓ Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods
- ✓ Keys
- ✓ Toys, Books and Games
- ✓ Important documents - in a waterproof container or watertight resealable plastic bag
 - ✓ insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.
- ✓ Tools - keep a set with you during the storm
- ✓ Vehicle fuel tanks filled
- ✓ Pet care items
 - ✓ proper identification / immunization records / medications
 - ✓ ample supply of food and water
 - ✓ a carrier or cage
 - ✓ muzzle and leash

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For more information on hurricane preparedness and planning visit the following web sites:

National Weather Service - National Hurricane Center - Tropical Prediction Center
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

The Weather Channel - Hurricane Central
<http://www.weather.com/newscenter/tropical/>

Sun Sentinel - Hurricane Headquarters - South Florida's Complete Hurricane Coverage
<http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/weather/hurricane/>

To really get inside a hurricane and how it develops, visit the WW2010 site at the University of Illinois at [http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/\(Gh\)/guides/mtr/hurr/home.rxml](http://ww2010.atmos.uiuc.edu/(Gh)/guides/mtr/hurr/home.rxml)

Learn about the men and women of the 403rd Wing based at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi, better known as the Hurricane Hunters. They are the folks that fly into the eye of the storm and send back the reports used by the National Hurricane Center. To find out more, visit <http://www.hurricanehunters.com/>

To learn about how to prepare for the hurricane season and how to develop a plan visit FEMA's site at <http://www.fema.gov>


Also let your children visit FEMA's 'kids' site to learn about hurricanes at <http://www.fema.gov/kids/hurr.htm> 

(Continued from page 2)

- ❖ In April our staff planned and hosted a series of three workshops on safety and security in Monroe, Alexandria and Baton Rouge. The workshops were designed to introduce the draft safety, security, and emergency preparedness plan templates and get feedback from our providers. After the workshops, our consultants made changes to the plan templates and they were forwarded to all of the providers across the state.
- ❖ We had a triennial state management review with the FTA in May and not only survived but received no findings in any of the 19 management areas audited – a first for us! I think that's partly because staff at FTA Region VI, headed up by Administrator Bob Patrick, provides us

with excellent technical assistance and training opportunities and because I have an excellent staff that has been around the block a few times (see the spot light article in this newsletter).

- ❖ Another plug for staff – we've accomplished all of this without clerical staff for 6 months. Now that the paperwork has gotten totally out of hand and we're meeting ourselves coming and going, we should be handing over the mountain of files and papers to a new administrative assistant, who should be on board by mid-July.

We wish each of you a safe and happy 4th of July holiday and want to extend our deepest thanks to all who are working hard to provide transportation services to those in need throughout the state. 

Contact Information Announcement

In our attempt to keep everyone informed of special events, workshops, conferences, and important information regarding public transportation in Louisiana, DOTD PT maintains a Contact Database. If information about your organization - new phone number, new director, new address or email - has changed, please help us keep our database current. Email your updated information to public-transportation@dotd.louisiana.gov

Millie Ann Goods Bolden

Our condolences to the family and friends of Millie Ann Goods Bolden. She was a good friend to us and to Public Transportation in Louisiana. Millie was born May 13, 1949 and departed this life on May 14, 2006. She is survived by her husband, Edward Bolden and one son, James Latrun Goods. She served as Transportation Coordinator with Ouachita Council on Aging for 16 years. Millie was passionate about her family, her church, and her job. Her motto at the Ouachita Council on Aging was "We're Rollin!" We will all miss her.

In 2003, the DOTD PT began working on a Statewide Bus Safety Standard and was the first state in the nation to submit for FTA review and later adopt a statewide standard.


While only several years into implementation, the 5-point security initiative has produced results. The industry has recognized the importance of integrating security procedures throughout every aspect of transit programs, operations, and infrastructure. Three major areas of focus have been identified to strengthen any transit system's security: employee training, public awareness, and emergency response planning. Cooperation, coordination and communication are the order of the day throughout the transit industry.

The Department of Transportation and Development Public Transportation Section (DOTD PT) has embraced FTA's safety and security initiative. Immediately following 9/11, safety and security were high-profile topics at the statewide transit conferences.

In 2003, the DOTD PT began working on a Statewide Bus Safety Standard and was the first state in the nation to submit for FTA review and later adopt a statewide standard. In 2004, a series of workshops on safety and security were presented to all transit providers in Louisiana. In 2005 the state began working on plan templates for safety, security and emergency preparedness and these templates were completed in 2006.

Following completion of the draft plans, a series of interactive workshops were held with the providers in Louisiana. Based on the input received, modifications were made to the templates to insure that the plans could be customized by each transit provider and then, more importantly, could be implemented. Those plans were provided to each of the urban, rural and E&D providers in June 2006

and should be adopted within the next couple of months.

Much like the national safety and security initiative, the Louisiana effort is making major strides and progressing rapidly. Since the advent of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, cooperation, coordination and communication are the order of the day throughout the Louisiana transit community. 



From Capital Hill...

In March 2006, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published interim guidance for three of its grant programs: the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310); the Job Access and Reverse Commute (Section 5316), which has been formulized under SAFETEA-LU; and the New Freedom Program (Section 5317). The interim guidance is effective immediately and, of note, reminds states and urbanized areas that locally developed, coordinated public transit-human services transportation plans are required next year for Sections 5310 and 5317 (plans are not required for this year, but are encouraged).

In February 2006, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced proposed amendments to some of its requirements for implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act. Much of the proposed amendments deal with commuter and intercity passenger rail accessibility, but there are aspects that could affect other forms of public and community transportation.

More information can be found in the Federal Register online at:

<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>



Announcing the **2006 Louisiana Public Transit Conference**

Please join us at our annual Public Transit Conference. This is the yearly gathering of transit professionals who are dedicated to providing or supporting public transit in Louisiana. Attendees include public transit providers, transit associations, planners, transit advocates, consultants, vendors, and civic and religious leaders. Come participate in the rebirth of the Big Easy.

Location



September 25-27, 2006
Wyndham New Orleans @ Canal Place
100 Rue Iberville
New Orleans, Louisiana
Phone: (504) 553-5015
Reservations Web Address:



Conference Topics and Speakers

This is your opportunity to help plan the 2006 conference program by selecting important topics that you would like discussed at the conference. Workshop and speaker recommendations should relate to the conference theme: safety, security and recovery. Workshop or keynote speakers may be practitioners, educators, consultants, or any other individual with applicable experience or expertise. Workshops may be hosted by a panel of speakers. Email your recommendations to WandaWalker@dotd.louisiana.gov

Need a Scholarship?

A number of conference scholarships are available. Reimbursement is limited to registration and lodging only. Call Wanda Walker @ (225) 274-4302 for more information.

Hotel Reservations

Call the Wyndham New Orleans at (504) 553-5015. Be sure and tell the hotel you are attending the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development Conference to receive the conference rate of \$110.00 (single) and \$120.00 (double) plus tax. **All reservations must be received by Thursday, August 24, 2006.** Reservations after this cut-off date will be accepted on a space available basis only.

Vendors

For exhibit information, please call
Harold Beck at (225) 274-4302 or
email: haroldbeck@dotd.louisiana.gov

For additional information

Please contact the DOTD PT Section at
225-274-4302 or
go to our website at
www.dotd.louisiana.gov/intermodal/transit/